



## BOONE COUNTY Solid Waste Management District

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**Boone County Solid Waste Management District E-Newsletter**

### Clothing Donations - Reused, Recycled or Pitched???

The garage sale season is upon us, the kids are continuing to outgrow or tear up their clothes & we always seem to have a bin or bag full of items that need to be gotten rid of to help in the de-cluttering of our homes. What actually happens when we donate items, in particular, clothes or textiles?



Donations to our local Goodwill store are fantastic because more than likely, the product will be **REUSED**. After four weeks on the sale rack, the item will be marked down to 50% for six days. If they remain unsold, they are marked down to 99¢ for one day. If the item goes unsold in the store, it is shipped to one of three Goodwill outlet stores where textiles are sold at a 69¢ per pound rate (sales do occur). Unsold items at the Goodwill outlets are sorted, baled and sold as **RECYCLABLE** commodities or at times, sold in developing countries for **REUSE**.

Clothing collection bins have been spotted in the Boone County area, some are set up to support the Special Olympics others for private entities. Donations in this way have approximately an 80% chance of being **RECYCLED**. If the clothing is moldy, wet or stained with bodily fluids, chances are the item will end up in the landfill where it will take multiple years to decompose. If the item is vintage, has a upper end brand name or is made from a high quality material, the item will be resold in a for-profit **REUSE** shop (this only makes up 2% of the overall donated clothing) or will be sold overseas for REUSE in a multiple European countries, India, Zambia or Uganda.

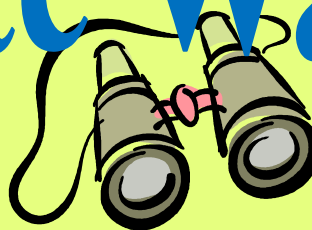


If the item doesn't fall into the upper-end category and it is made from a material that attracts oil like polyethylene or attracts water like cotton, its fate will be **REUSE** as a cleaning rag for different industries. Not a helpful rag material, then we need to consider if it is made mainly from plant or animal fibers. Yes, the items will most likely be **RECYCLED** for use in items like stuffing, insulation, packaging or mixed with virgin material and spun into new yarn for use in items such as carpet, towels and upholstery. If the material is not animal or plant based, then your garment will likely be broken down chemically or **RECYCLED** into plastic type items.

As always, consider local options for clothing **REUSE**: handing them down to family members or friends, have a garage sale or make donations to the Caring Center in Lebanon. Check out their website at [www.thecaringcenter.net](http://www.thecaringcenter.net) for their needs.

**CLOTHING**  
*is not* **GARBAGE**

# Waste Watch



### How Can I... Recycle at Festivals & other summer events?

Are you hosting or planning to attend a festival or other type of event this summer? If so, you should know about the Solid Waste Management District's Lend-a-Bin program that allows local event coordinators the opportunity to offer recycling to their patrons. The event can be a small afternoon charity fundraiser or a large multi-day event. This program is **free of charge** and simple to use. The only requirement for use of the District's bins is to report the number of bags collected at the event back to the

District office. This allows the District to track the quantity of plastic bottles and aluminum cans being recycled within the County on an annual basis through this program. Contact the District office to reserve your bins!!!



### Upcoming Events



**June 5 - World Environment Day**

**June 12 - Incredible Edible  
Landfill Presentation**

Thorntown Library at 2pm

**July 19-24 - Boone County 4H Fair**  
Boone County Fairgrounds, Lebanon

**August 23 - HHW & Electronics  
Collection Day** - Zionsville Town Hall  
9am - 2pm

**September 26 - Community Grant  
Application Deadline**  
District Office at 4pm

